Preface to the Weather Almanac.

In presenting the first No. of the Weather Almanac to the Public, the following observations are considered necessary; Viz. Though the indications of the diurnal state of the weather marked in the Tables of the different months have been calculated for the Meridian of London; yet, with few exceptions, they will be found equally applicable throughout the different parts of the United Kingdom;- to the Seas in their vicinity; and to the neighbouring Shores of the Continent:- the period embraced by each diurnal calculation, being from Midnight, on the one hand; and to the same period daily, on the other.

It is further necessary to observe that as the sources of meteoric action in the atmosphere are Various; the state of the weather at any time is not induced by any individual cause or agency whatever; but is rather the result of the combined action of different causes, of which the following are esteemed to be the principal, Viz. The influence exercised by the Season; the influence exercised by the Locality; and finally, the influence exercised by the Moon:- these - properly speaking - being the three arms of meteoric action in the atmosphere, as connected with the weather and its changes. And as, of these three agencies no more than one is detached, or stationary in its amount at the different periods of the Year; and which notwithstanding, from its continual State of change, is capable of being made the medium of calculation, in reference to the approaching changes of the weather, Viz. the Lunar action. And as, particularly in the lower latitudes during Summer, and in the higher during winter, the influence exercised by the locality is frequently not only in opposition to that of the season, but so much superior to it, as to merge or neutralize its effects on the weather. The consequence of this is, that though the latter circumstance rarely occurs in our Skies; yet when the action as connected with the Season or with locality, happens to be in opposition with that of the Moon; it has the effect of retarding, more or less, according to its amount, the effect of the lunar action on the weather: and that, on the contrary, when the action in the Season, and the influence exercised by locality, coincide in their tendency with the lunar action; it necessarily has the effect of accelerating - according to its amount, - the development of the latter action on the weather. And as, though in calculations of the kind, the anticipated effects of these influences are taken into account, that they never can be taken

with such a degree of accuracy, as that cases will not occur in which the changes of the weather will take place some time before or after the periods mark-ed in the Tables as those of their occurrence; and consequently, that, from the nature of the subject, it were impossible but that individual exceptions to the indi-cations in the Tables should be found to occur, notwith-standing that the state of the barometer may prove the correctness of the calculation, as connected with the lunar action, i.e. its rise preceding fair weather, and its fall preceding rain and its accessories. But as the event in reference to these predictions, is as admitted, in some degree contingent; and thence that it may be asked, - if certainty cannot be attached to the predic-tion, what use can it be of? To this we shall answer, that the exceptions in reference to the predictions, will be found to bear but a small relative proportion to the remainder: and in our turn demand, - if in Nine cases out of Ten, the event be found to correspond with the prediction; - does it follow, because one of the antici-pated results, as marked in the Table, does not occur, that the Public should be left ignorant of the remain-ing nine which do occur? For, if objections of this kind were valid, it were the same as to say, because the quadrature of the circle cannot be found, that the practical parts of Mathematics should be abandoned. - Such exceptions, as in other cases, only serving the more fully to prove the rule, as refers to the correctness of the principles of calculation on which the Tables are founded.

As, however, a difference occurs between the different seasons of the Year, in reference to the relative degree of certainty which is to be attached to the indications of the weather as set down in the Tables: it is right to observe that, from the period of the Autumnal equinox to the winter Solstice, is that when the greatest degree of certainty is to be attached to these predictions: - that, from the Vernal equinox to the Summer Solstice, is that which holds the second place in this respect: that the Quarter which ex-tends from the Winter Solstice to the Vernal Equinox holds the third place: - and finally, that from the Summer Solstice to the Autumnal equinox is the period of the Year when the least certainty can be attached to these predictions of the weather. The latter being chiefly referable to the greater locality of the Meteor in which rain has its source, and of the greater influence exercised by Mountains, and the Vicinity of the Sea, on the weather, during this Sea-son, than during the other divisions of the Year.

From these admissions it will be seen, that, as refers to the pretensions of the present work considered as a Guide to the weather, the question turns less on ab-solute, than on relative perfection, as compared with any work of the kind hitherto published. And, whether in regard to a subject in which all are more or less interested, it be not better to give such information as it is in the power of Science to afford, and thus, to a certain extent, to remedy the numerous ~~Cheats and~~ inconveniences under which Society, ~~at present labours~~, owing to the absence of such information, by a publication of the kind; or - because of the impossi-bility of making it in this respect as perfect as were to be desired - to allow things to remain in their ~~present state~~ ~~known state~~? On which, as appeared, no difference of opinion can exist. And when it is taken into ac-count that - as connected with the principles and laws of Movement, Temperature, &c. &c. in the physi-cal world - a totally new Class of proofs, as proposed by the present work, which if found generally cor-rect, will have the effect of placing these depart-ments of Science a Century in advance: - it will be allowed that, independent of its utility in other respects, this consideration, of itself, should be suffi-cient with the Public, to indulge the hope to give to the work a favourable reception.

In regard to the principles themselves on which the calculations of the weather are founded; it will be sufficient to observe, that as, according to any principles hitherto known or recognised, calculations of the kind could not be made; the circumstance presupposes the discovery of others. Hitherto unknown. And, as showing the connexion of the latter with every department of the physical sciences, and consequently with the interests of every class of society, a Scientific Notice has been added to the Introduction by the Editor, in order that such of its purchasers as might feel disposed to obtain information on the subject, should have the opportunity to consult his Views. The transition from generally received opinions to the latter, however, is so considerable; and the chasm which separates them from those who are disposed to consider ~~to occupy~~ the Vanguard of the physical Sciences, that however correct, the views, it were difficult to expect that this chasm could be passed at a bound. It will, consequently, excite no surprise in the Editor should these his views - similar to most others - be at first received with incredulity, or even treated as absurd.

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~~up to the period when~~ Time and Facts - two powerful auxiliaries, it will be admitted, on the side of truth - shall have disposed of prepossession and prejudice as connected with them. It may not however be amiss to add, in regard to these principles of calculation, - that, though by chance the state of the weather at any particular time might, possibly, be predicted; Yet, that, to attempt to follow its Minutiæ, (as in the present Almanac) - from fair to rain, and from rain to fair, even for seven days consecutively, without the aid of correct principles, were about the same as to attempt to compose a discourse in an unknown Tongue: - the thing never having been done before: and for a simple reason, because it was utterly impossible.

DSI

279. (Météorologie) Patric **MURPHY** (mort 1847) physicien et météorologiste : **manuscrit autographe,** sur 3 et demi pp. in-fol. en anglais : PREFACE TO THE WEATHER ALMANAC (premier jet, ratures et corrections); du début il ressort qu'il s'agit de donner les explications nécessaires à la parution du PREMIER NUMÉRO d'un « weather almanac » !Donc il s'agit d'un **document fort intéressant;** long texte sur pages très remplies... **85 »**

MORSSEN-66

L.A.S. de 1912, 3 pp. [illegible], cuivert [illegible]
collaborer avec lui « dans l'ombre de VERLAINE » au projet conçu (détails), 35 »
et lui indique comment arriver chez lui au Vésinet...

271. MONTHERLANT, écrivain : L.A.S. de 1943, 2 pl. pp. in-8 (à Willemetz) sur la sortie controversée de sa nouvelle pièce de théâtre... (la date indique qu'il s'agit de la REINE MORTE — jointe un L.S. de 1949, parle du livre écrit sur lui par Michel de St-Pierre) — les deux 60 »